

THE  
CHRONICLE  
OF THE  
YEAR

One thousand Seven hun-  
dred and Forty-four.

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# THE CHRONICLE, &c.

1.  ND great wrath remained between the king of *England* and the *French* king: for the king of *England* had said, Thou shalt not despoil my friend of her inheritance: but the *French* king said, I will despoil.

2. And the armies of these two kings had met in battle; the *English* Army under the king in person, and the *French* army under the captain *Noailles*: and the king of *England* escaped out of the hands of the *French* captain; wherefore there seemed great rejoicings in *England*.

3. But the king of *England* took council with *Charles*, the captain and brother of his friend the queen of *Hungary*; saying, We will despoil the *French* king, because he hath done wickedly. Nevertheless they did nothing; for their Servants could not agree.

4. So

4. So the people went to the houses appointed for them, each man to his place; because the weather grew cold, and there was great distress.

5. But the anger of the kings not abating, they meditated revenge during the *Winter*: and the elders of *England* said unto the king, Take thou again thy **HANOVERIANS**, that thy vengeance may be certain. Now these *Hanoverians* did not find favour in the sight of the *English* people, because they received their money, and did them no service; yea, they seemed as if they would serve only themselves.

6. Howbeit the thing was done: and when the *English* men of war said, Wherefore should we fight again on the *Continent*, where we have neither wives, nor children, nor lands? Their rulers answered, Ye must fight, for the **HANOVERIANS** have there wives, children, and lands. But the men of war replied, they will not join us in the day of battle.

7. *John* the scribe then arose and said, They will join and assist you, and the *Dutch* will join and assist you likeways. Whereupon the *English* again submitted, tho' they had no faith in the word of *John*: but they were a friendly people, which was known both to *John* and the *Hanoverians*.

8. Now the winter was scarcely past, before the wrath that had been smothered, began to appear

appear on both sides. And the *English* wondered, and said, Peradventure they may be in earnest ; wherefore now let us fight.

9. For the ships of the king of *England* attacked the ships of the *French* king, and the ships of the king of *Spain* : but it was long before the people knew in what manner, and with what success.

10. And when the acts of these matters were made public, lo ! the people cried aloud, Ye have not truly informed us : verily the scribes of the sea differ not from the scribes of the land ! It appeared indeed, that the captains of *England* had differed between themselves, and the captains of *France* and *Spain* had likewise differed with each other : but the end of these disputes no man knoweth unto this day. For the *English* captains say alternately, Thou wert wrong ! Nay, but it was thou ! Wherefore who shall determine ? Howbeit many men fell on both sides.

11. While these things were doing, *Tencin* the servant of the *French* king said unto him, O king live for ever ! Wherefore now dost thou sorrow at what the king of *England* doeth ? Are not the young men living, the sons of *James* ? Let one of them come and be king of *England* : so shall the enmity cease between the nations, and thou have vengeance.

12. And the saying pleased the *French* king : for the servants of *Baal* he thought were many in

in *England*, and the young men were worshippers of *Baal*. But the king was deceived : for that generation was well nigh ceased in *England* ; and a new generation was arisen, which knew not *Baal*.

13. Yet did the *French* king send for the eldest of the young men, and the young man travelled on horseback with great diligence, and he passed thro' many towns, and the third day he rested. Yea he came to the palace of the *French* king, and to the uttermost coast, and looked wishfully over to *England*.

14. A great host also attended him, and ships, and mighty chiefs. But the people of *England* said unto their king, Nay, but we will stand by thee, for thou art our life ; wherefore be not afraid. Then was the spirit of the king greatly comforted.

15. And the king of *England* sent forth his fleet to fight the fleet of the *French* king : but a mighty wind arose, and drove them both to their own harbours. So the king of *England* reigned in peace, and the invasion, and the young man, were no more heard of. Yet the *Baalites* that remained in *England* were greatly terrified, and hid themselves, because of jealousy.

16. Are not these things written in all the books of the kingdom ? Yet some persons scoffed, and said, Surely the *French* king hath more wisdom ! He meaneth not to attack us, nor our king ; but only to affright us. And the

the saying of those men is yet believed by many.

17. For the *French* king was then marching his hosts in diverse parts, into the countries pertaining to the queen of *Hungary*. And he said to himself, If I can affright the king of *England*, he shall not assist the queen of *Hungary* : nor shall the *Dutch* assist her, for they shall be called to succour the king of *England*. And the thing happened even as the *French* king had thought.

18. But when the terror in *England* was overpast, *George* the king persisted to support the queen of *Hungary*. And *Lewis* the *French* king raged mightily, saying :

19. Behold my invasion hath miscarried, and my fleet hath been insulted ! Wherefore then should I longer dissemble ? I will declare war against the king of *England*, seeing he treateth me as an enemy. And the queen of *Spain* said, Declare war ! and *Tencin* the cardinal said likewise, O king, declare war !

20. And *Lewis* the *French* king declared war against the king of *England*, elector of *Hanover* : who answered, Be it so ! and declared war against the *French* king.

21. So they numbered their armies, and appointed captains over hundreds, and captains over thousands ; and they had also captains in chief. But the army of the *French* king exceeded the army of the king of *England* ; and he

he divided it into several parties : one party in *Flanders* ; another party in *Hainault* ; another party in *Lorrain* ; and another party in *Alsace*. He also sent a party to assist *Philip*, the son of the king of *Spain*, who made war upon the king of *Sardinia*.

22. And the party in *Flanders* was alone greater than the army of *England*, and the *English Hanoverians* : whereupon *John* the scribe said again, The *Dutch* will surely come in. They did come in, according to the saying of *John* ; but they had no orders to join the battle.

23. For the *Dutch* are a wise people, and their merchants are like princes : and they said, Wherefore then should we fight, since our merchandise will be ruined ? Howbeit we will keep the covenants we have made ; we will send our men, but they shall not be men of war ; so shall we offend neither the *French* king, nor the king of *England*.

24. And when *Lewis* attacked the cities of the *Dutch*, they said, Let him take them ; for surely if we are peaceable people, he will restore them again. And he took *Menin*, and *Ypres*, and *Fort Knoque*, and *Furnes*.

25. Now *Lewis* in person led his army : he had not before seen a war, nor did he now mean other than to see it. But the king of *England* said, I will go fight, as I was wont : for he was a man of war from his youth.

26. But

26. But the great lords said, and the ladies said, Wherefore wilt thou go forth to the battle? Lo! thou art worth ten thousand of us: therefore it is better that thou tarry in the city. And the people cried aloud, Let the king live among us! Then the king answered, What seemeth you best I will do.

27. But the armies did not fight; and the king that was present, received no more damage than the king that was absent.

28. For the Allies encamped behind the river *Schelde*, because of the *French* numbers. And when the *English* would have passed over, the *Hanoverians* murmured, and the *Dutch* said, Wherefore should we pass over, seeing we must not fight? So they remained beyond the river, while the *French* destroyed the country that is on this side.

29. But *John* the scribe was of stubborn mind, and would not be persuaded. He said, Surely the *Dutch* will consent anon: and thus he told the people from day to day.

30. The king also wrote letters to the *Dutch* rulers, and *Trevor* the king's servant made to them speeches: but they were nothing moved, and gave only courteous answers: for they harkened to the voice of the *French* abbot more than to the voice of the *English* minister.

31. *John* then considered with himself, and wrote unto *Charles* the Prince, who commanded

ed an army beyond the great river that boundeth *Germany*: and in this manner did *John* write :

32. Come thou over the river, and waste the lands of the *French* king in *Alsace*, that he may send his troops from *Flanders* to oppose thee, and give us liberty. Then will we despoil the *French* king also on the side of *Flanders*, and he shall not know which way to turn him : for while he marcheth towards thee, the *English* shall prevail ; and while he marcheth towards the *English*, thou shalt prevail.

33. But the thing pleased not *Charles*, who answered, saying : Why should I come over the river to help thee, seeing there is a league formed against my queen on this side, and she will be left defenceless ?

34. Howbeit *John* promised him money : so the army of *Hungary* passed the river, and the money was paid. And the money of *England* was plenteous in *Germany*, and in *Flanders*, and in *Italy* ; but in *England* there was great want.

(35. For the king of *Sardinia* made war in *Italy*, and the *English* paid him. This king was a great captain ; but he was not altogether prosperous. Prince *Lobkowitz* likewise made war in *Italy* for the queen of *Hungary*, who received the money of *England*, and the prince encamped a whole summer, looking at the enemy

my ; and then he said to his valiant men, we will retreat.)

36. Now when *Charles* had passed the river, the *French* king was greatly astonished ; for he wist not that the thing would happen. And he called together his counsellors, and his generals, and they led away other forces to assist *Coigny*, who commanded in *Alsace*.

37. Then *John* published a large account of these matters, and he bid the people of *England* rejoice and be glad : nay he prophesied, that king *Lewis* should flee before his enemies on either side, even to his chief city ; where they would take him captive. And some of the people did rejoice, and others cherished vain hopes : howbeit there was no cause, for *John* was a false and lying prophet.

38. For *Frederick* king of *Prussia*, as *Charles* the prince had foreseen, denounced war against the queen of *Hungary*, and led a mighty host to take away her kingdom of *Bohemia* : whereupon *Charles* was obliged to repass the great river, and so the money of *England* was given for nought.

39. And before the Prince could attain *Bohemia*, the king of *Prussia* had taken her chief towns : but what will come after no man yet knoweth. For *Augustus* the *Polish* king, hath sent to the aid of *Charles*, and *Frederick* seemeth to complain of the friendship of *Lewis*.

40. If any thing good happen, let providence alone have the glory : for surely it hath not been concerted by man's wisdom !

41. And while the army of *Charles* was in *Alsace*, and the *French* were weak in *Flanders*, the people cried out, why do ye not now fight, even as *John* hath said ? But the captains replied, We speak different tongues, and do not understand each other ; neither have we orders for that purpose.

42. Howbeit, after some time, when the *French* were again waxed stronger, the allies marched into *French Flanders*, and made war upon the oxen, and the sheep, and the swine, and the poultry, and the herbs of the field, and the women. And when they had finished their warfare, they went back into winter-quarters, leaving behind them men, and many horses.

43. Touching the rest of the acts of this campaign, let they who would remember them preserve the *London Gazettes*.

44. Now *Frederick* the king charged *John* the scribe, saying : Thou art he that troublest *Europe* : for all her princes had ere now sheathed the sword, hadst not thou hardened the hearts of certain among them. But *John* answered not a word, as wotting not what to answer.

45. But

45. But he said in his heart, Lo, the elders of the people are preparing to assemble! What if they should question me about the war, and the peace, and the treasure? It behoveth us not to have enquiries, because of the new supplies.

46. I will once more affright them with the young man: and it shall come to pass, that while they look astonished at one another, they shall be all of one mind. So shall I get money again.

47. And he caused the trumpet to be sounded through the land: and when the people asked, saying, What meaneth it; those who trumpeted gave answer, The young man is coming. But all who had prudence laughed to scorn the cunning of John; and they rest quietly, every man upon his pillow, unto this day.

FINIS.



